

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CA-01 EA-10 EB-08
CG-00 DOTE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 PPT-01 SS-15 NSCE-00
USIE-00 H-01 L-03 INRE-00 /079 W
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O 142021Z OCT 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6230
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3804

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EWWT, VM, US
SUBJECT: AMERICAN VESSEL REPORTED IN VIETNAMESE CUSTODY

REFS: A) BROWN-JOHNSON TELCONS OF OCTOBER 14
B) USUN 3727

1. AS INSTRUCTED TELCONS, MISOFF TELEPHONED VIETNAMESE MISSION TO INQUIRE FURTHER ABOUT SLOOP BRILLIG. IN MR. TAM'S ABSENCE, MISOFF SPOKE TO MR. KIET. MISOFF EXPLAINED THAT US AUTHORITIES HAD NOW RECEIVED REPORTS FROM THREE INDEPENDENT AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS THAT SLOOP BRILLIG WITH THREE AMERICAN CITIZENS ABOARD IS IN VIETNAMESE CUSTODY AND IS BEING TOWED INTO HO CHI MINHVILLE. AMERICAN PRESS IS AWARE OF THIS SITUATION AND IS PRESSING USG TO FIND OUT IF WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH VIETNAMESE AND IF WE HAVE LEARNED ANYTHING ABOUT THIS MATTER FROM SRV AUTHORITIES. MISOFF RECALLED THAT SHE HAD PASSED MESSAGE TO MR. TAM FOR VICE MINISTER THACH ABOUT THIS MATTER ON WEDNESDAY. USG WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE ABOUT THIS MATTER.

2. MR.KIET ASKED IF WE HAD ANOTHER WRITTEN MESSAGE TO
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PASS TO HIM. MISOFF EXPLAINED THAT DEPARTMENT HAD ASKED HER TO PASS ON BY TELEPHONE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WE HAD RECEIVED AND TO EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT WE MAY HEAR FROM THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES SOON ABOUT THIS MATTER

3. MR. KIET STATED MR. TAM AND ALL "RESPONSIBLE" AUTHORITIES WERE OUT OF MISSION. HE NOTED MR. DINH BA THI AND

OTHER MISSION MEMBERS WERE AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE STATED HE WOULD PASS ON MESSAGE "THIS AFTERNOON" WHEN "RESPONSIBLE" AUTHORITIES RETURNED. HE FURTHER STATED THAT VIETNAMESE MISSION HERE HAD CABLED MESSAGE FROM U.S. AUTHORITIES DELIVERED ON WEDNESDAY (REF B) TO HANOI, BUT HAD HAD NO RESPONSE AS YET.

4. AFTER REPORTING BY TELEPHONE TO WASHINGTON AND RECEIVING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS, MISOFF SOUGHT OUT MEMBER OF VIETNAMESE DELEGATION ATTENDING PLENARY TO PASS SAME MESSAGE AS MORNING PLENARY SESSION ENDED. MISOFF WAS ABLE TO EACH PHAM NGAC, WHO HAD BEEN SITTING WITH PERMREP THI AT PLENARY AND WHO HAS BEEN FOR SEVERAL YEARS PRESS REPRESENTATIVE OF VIETNAMESE MISSION. PHAM NGAC, WHO SERVES REGULARLY AS AN INTERPRETER FOR THE VIETNAMESE, SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. MISOFF REPORTEDD ABOVE MESSAGE. PHAM NGAC REPORTED MESSAGE BUT NOTED HE HAD READ IN THIS MORNING'S U.S. NEWSPAPERS THAT STATE DEPARTMENT DISCLAIMED ANY EXACT KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO BOAT. MISOFF EXPLAINED THAT REPORTS IN AMERICAN PRESS OCTOBER 14 LIKELY BASED ON RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE OCTOBER 13. USG HAD APPARENTLY SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS WHO HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BRILLIG.

5. PHAM NGAC PROMISED TO PASS MESSAGE TO HIS SUPERIORS
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IN VIETNAMESE MISSION. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MISOFF TELEPHONE MR. TAM, WHO IS MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THIS SUBJECT, LATER IN AFTERNOON TO REPEAT MESSAGE.

6. MISOFF SPOKE TO HA HUY TAM AT 3 P.M. OCTOBER 14. MR. TAM HAD ALREADY RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM MR. NGAC. MR. TAM SAID VIETNAMESE UN MISSION WOULD LET USUN KNOW AS SSON AS THEY RECEIVE ANY WORD ABOUT THIS MATTER. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN03804
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770377-1209
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771058/aaaabxah.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 05cec02e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 909979
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN VESSEL REPORTED IN VIETNAMESE CUSTODY
TAGS: EWWT, CASC, VM, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/05cec02e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009